(c) The total financial assistance likely to be given in the current financial year is as follows :

(i) Grant-in-aid—Rs. 1052.84 crore (ii)

Loan—Rs. 169.93 crore

Time taken by various programmes

2201. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that public broadcaster Prasar Bharati spends 46 per cent of its total telecast time on entertainment;

(b) if so, whether only 18 per cent is spent on education;

(c) whether 35 per cent is taken by information programmes;

(d) if so, whether the Prasar Bharati has been urged to devise a special policy to raise revenues without affecting the quality of programmes;

(e) whether the Prasar Bharati has suggested several measures to raise revenue other than through advertisements;

(0 if so, whether Government have considered these suggestions; and

(g) if so, whether Government have been urged to ask Prasar Bharati to provide more time for education?.

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (g) The primary duty of Prasar Bharati is to organize and conduct public broadcasting services to inform, educate and entertain the public. Prasar Bharati takes its own decisions on matters relating to the manner of raising revenues, programming content, etc.

Average percentage of information, education and entertainment programmes, on the National Network, during the year 2000 was as under:

Information	: 37%
Education	: 13%
Entertainment (including sports)	: 50%

In addition, a separate 24 hour Educational Channel known as "Gyan Darshan" is in operation since January, 2000.

A Resource Centre has been set up in AIR with a view to generating revenue by providing consultancy services as well as by hiring out AIR transmitters and towers on licence fee basis to interested parties.